

PIG MSP PROGRESS REPORT

Strengthening Pig Multi-stakeholder Platforms and Processes (MSPs) in Uganda

Prepared for

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Introduction

The first wave of Pig MSPs for 2015 were held in Five regions and one at National Level. The Norther region meeting was held in Lira, Eastern Region was held in Kamuli, Central region meeting was held in Mukono, Weteren meeting held in Hoima and the Greater Masaka regional MSP held in Masaka town. At the National level, the meeting was held at SNV Netherlands Development Organization Country Office at Bugolobi, Kampala.

Foundation

This Northern and Western Uganda, this was the first time that MSPs were organized. The regions are emerging as leading suppliers of pork in Uganda hence the need to bring them on board as far as the development of the pig value chain in Uganda is concerned. Secondary, there is already ongoing work of ILRI in the two regions making it prime and ripe for actors to start working together through the MSPs.

For the rest of the regions where MSPs have taken root, it was necessary to hold MSPs to follow up on actions agreed last year and to ask actors to locate the MSP developmet along the success continuum. Through this process, the actors would be given space to develop their own sustainability plans to take the MSPs deep into the future. It was also meant

to include more actors along the value chain who hitherto had not shown interest in participating in the MSPs. Further still, the follow up MSPs would help to profile the pig sector further in the regions and at national level. In addition, it was also a plan of SNV and ILRI to use these fora to collect some information (exploratory research) to answer questions relate to relevancy and sustainability of the MSPs.

The process

Map out Pig stakeholders at regional and national level. This was more rigorous for Hoima and Lira where the MSPs were being held for the first time. Working with the ILRI field teams and partners in Lira and Hoima, we developed a stakeholder map and held several meetings with key stakeholders to secure their inputs at the planning stage, inputs that ensured the success of the first MSPs in the regions.

For the existing MSPs, the actor range was expanded to include more traders, financial service providers and small holder farmers. In Kamuli this was possible through an established group of Traders in Namwendwa. They easily mobilized themselves and participated fully in the platform. In Greater Masaka, the Union and primary cooperative societies played a big role in bringing their members to participate in the platform.

The agenda for National and regional MSPs was developed and driven by the actors through the task force leadership. As a way of empowering the leadership to start running their MSPs, and based on agreed parameters, they developed an agenda that would capture the interests of their

members and meet their expectations. The meetings for the Kamuli, Masaka, Mukono and at National level were chaired by the taskforce chairpersons as opposed to the earlier meetings which were wholly facilitated by SNV and the lead facilitator. At the beginning of this process, it was necessary to demonstrate to the leadership how to facilitate the MSPs. Besides, it was necessary to help them develop a clan vision and apath to achieve it. Now that is is clear for every region, the actors were guided to develop agenda items that would help them to start their journey towards their desired future.

At the end of the first phase of the Pig MSPs, several initiative have been observed. The pig multi-stakeholder platform has emerged as an important feature in the pig sector that has fostered the participation of multiple stakeholders from the public sector, civil society, and the private sector in Uganda.

The central issue for Kamuli, Mukono and Greater Masaka remained the constraint of poor feeds. The actors in these regions had indeed made progress towards solving this issue, but more needed to be done. The actors thought that they needed mere time to deal with this constraint before they moved on to another issue. Across the rgions, their was a move to form cooperatives that would help them do joint feed sourcing and procurement to help them exploit the economies of scale in buying and to ensure consistent quality across the sector. However, for the new regions, we used the sector analysis results from ILRI to come up with the constraints that the regions wanted to pursue as a matter of priority. For

Northern Uganda, it was the issue of African Swine fever. Western Uganda chose to focus on how to organise their farmers to get better prices for their pigs. The issue of Low prices offered by pig buyers was prioritised.

Participation

The participants in the already established regional MSPs included the task force members and the general MSP members, some of them have attended all the meetings but many were new, attending for the first time. The meetings also had a very strong presence of the government especially local governments, who have attained kin interest in the multi-stakeholder processes. There was also an increased number of traders in all meetings apart from Mukono. This was a good indicator given that this group has been hard to mobilise in the previous meetings.

The Outcomes

The Pig Multi-stakeholder fora at Regional and National level are increasingly becoming state of the art to address complex issues in the pig sector such as poor quality of feeds, diseases, exploitation of the farmers, etc. Policymakers, the private sector and other pig promoters have come to appreciate multi-stakeholder forums and task forces as solutions to the common problems of participation, particularly of small holder farmers in the decision making process.

Consequently, the following results were created through the first phase of the MSP

Improved information sharing and dialogue among pig stakeholders at regional and national level. Several meeting of stakeholders have occurred outside those organized by ILRI and SNV. Many task forces have met their members and local leadership to further the agenda of the MSPs. In this regard, other information sharing platforms are also emerging. For Centra Uganda, a WATSUP discussion forum has been created. Steadily, this is mobilizing people to form a central Uganda pig association. This is a move in the right direction towards organizing our actors in the region.

In all the regions there is an observable increased number of actors especially traders (live pig traders, feed makers, pork joint owners, livestock drugs dealers, etc). In Masaka, a micro finance institution, one of the largest in Uganda has even promised to make a substantial financial contribution towards the MSP in the region- a sign that the private sector sees MSPs as important avenues to grow their businesses.

There is also a drive towards unionization of actors aimed at increasing the bargaining power actors in the value chain. Actors organized in groups and associations will be easily accessible with initiatives towards improving the sector. This was made a central issue that was discussed at the National Level. The experience of greater masaka was shared and other regional actors sought to replicate this model in their space. Follow up activities have shown that Central Region has made significant progress towards establishment of the association.

However, in some areas where the leadership is not keen enough, the MSPs are not growing as fast as expected. Kamuli is a case in point where the leadership is not good at taking initiatives. The other region with a struggling leadership was Central Uganda but in the last MSP, the actors changed the leadership and put in place a vibrant team of leaders who are now working towards growing the value chain in there region.

The other challenge is that despite the growth the Pig MSPs in the regions and national level, there is little understanding of how the task forces and committee put in place characterized by limited formal decision making and enforcement capacity—can influence actor behavior in the sector. One particular question is, to what extent do representatives on multi-stakeholder task forces and committees use their influence on the committee and their positions in the wider network of stakeholders to influence whether the MSP achieves its goals?

Next steps

- Finalise the exploratory action research
- Facilitate task force and committee leaders' meeting ahead of the next wave of MSPs
- Hold second wave of MSPs focusing on sustainability of the MSPs